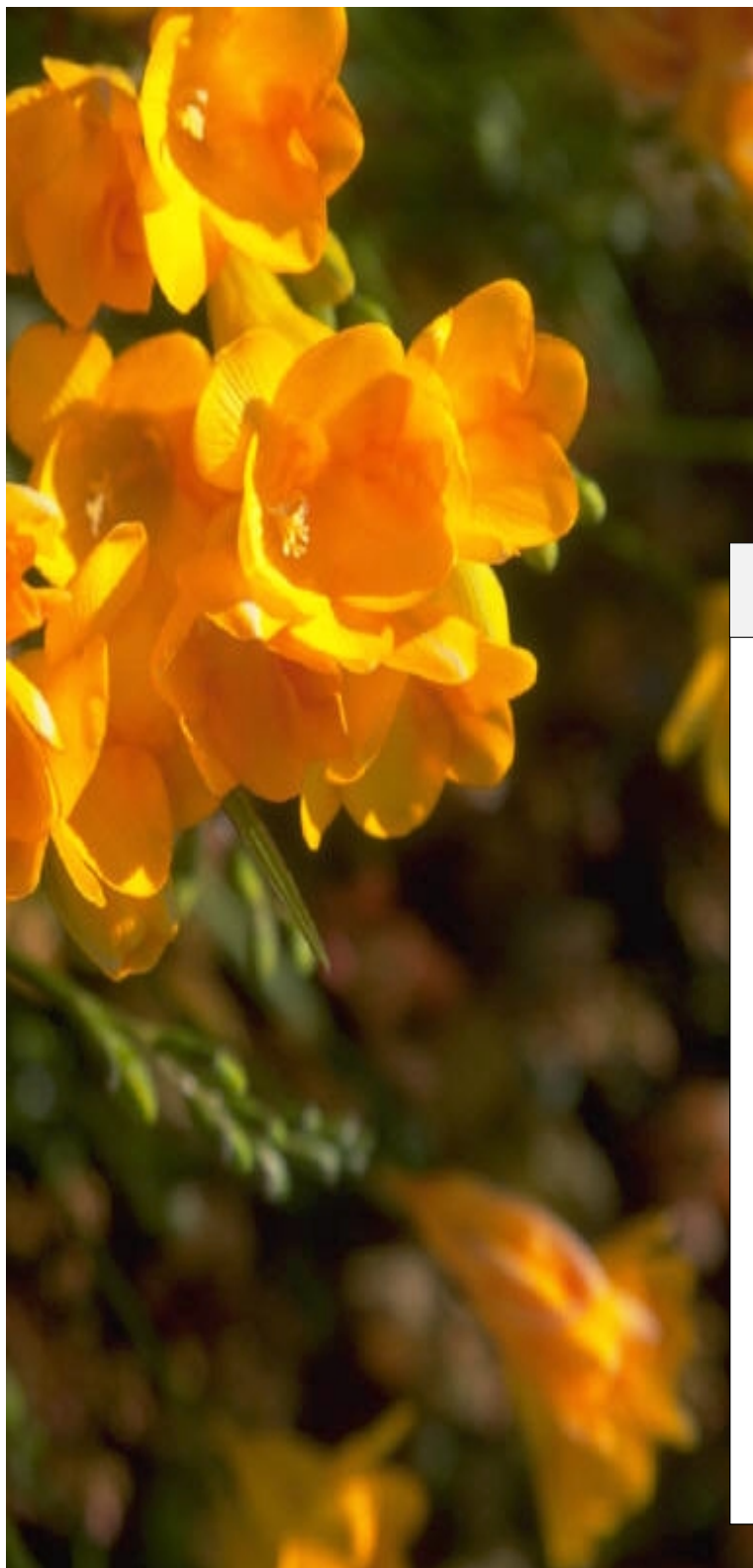


Washington Labor Market



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April 2001



In cooperation with the
Employment and Training
Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

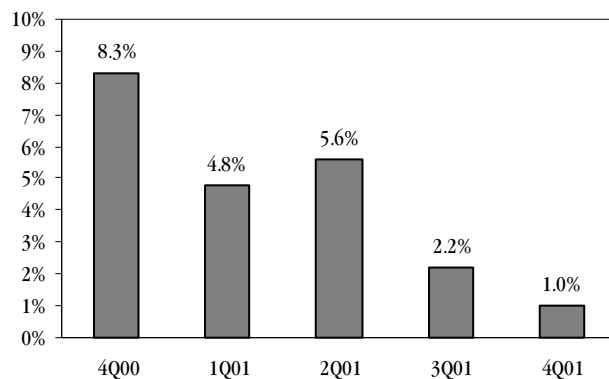
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SLOW GROWTH, NO RECESSION

Recession. It's a term mentioned more and more frequently of late. Some pundits, in fact, have started using the term in the present tense. Given the sharp falloff in the annual rate of growth in real Gross Domestic Product in the second half of 2000, the wave of corporate layoffs, declining consumer confidence, and other negative economic news, one might be forgiven for holding such a pessimistic view of the economy. One might be forgiven, but one would still be wrong. The nation and state are in a period of markedly slower growth—but growth nonetheless.

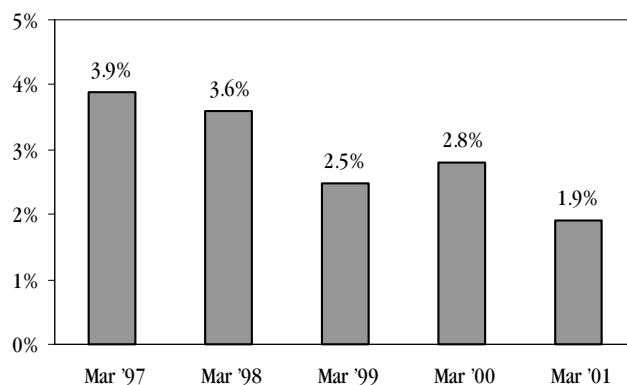
Real Gross Domestic Product
Annual Change



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Take Washington, for example. To start, the annual rate of nonfarm jobs in Washington—which is a proxy of sorts for GDP at the state level—has slowed from around 4 percent in 1997-98 to around 2 percent currently. While that may seem

Nonfarm Employment
Annual Change, Washington

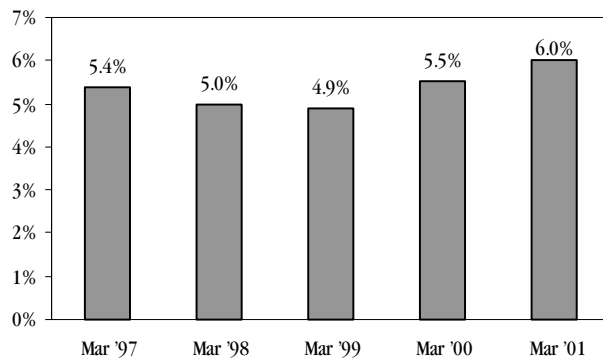


Source: Employment Security Department

dramatic, bear in mind that 1997-98 was an exceptional—and unsustainable—period of job growth. To put it in perspective, the current rate might be viewed as the lower end of the thirty-year long-run average of 3 percent.

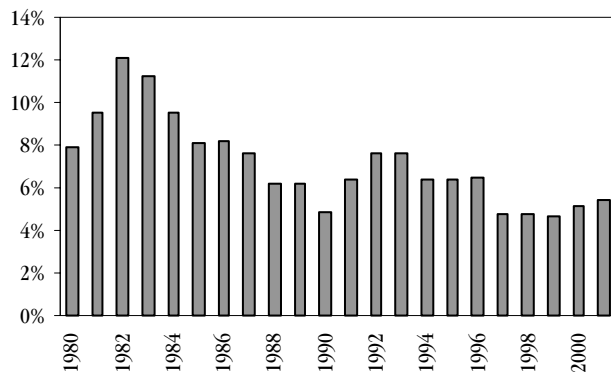
Second, while Washington's jobless rate has clearly trended upward in the past several years, it is still very low from an historical perspective. This should not, of course, take away from the fact that some regions of the state have relatively high unemployment and are, in fact, economically distressed.

Unemployment Rates, Washington
Not Seasonally Adjusted



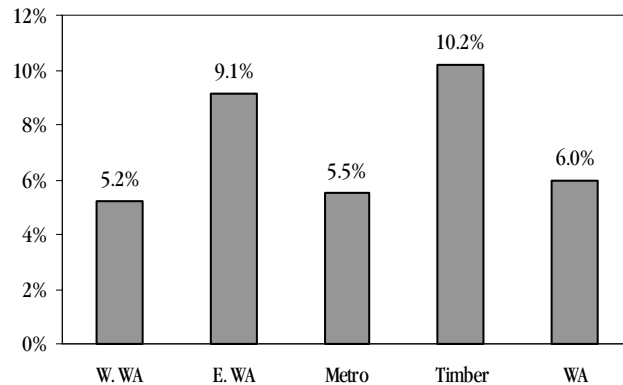
Source: Employment Security Department

Long Term Unemployment Rates, Washington
Not Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Employment Security Department

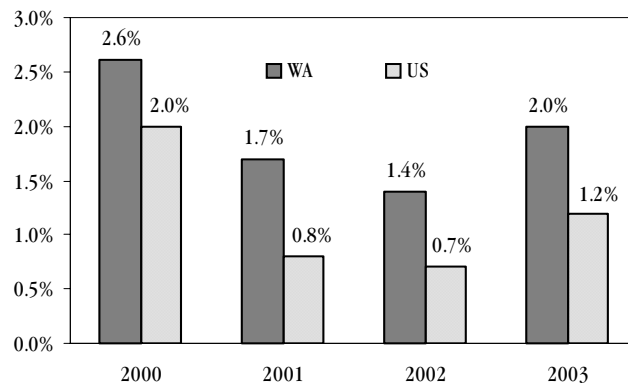
Unemployment Rates by Region, March 2001 Not Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Employment Security Department

Nevertheless, the short-term nonfarm employment outlook is for continued slowing in 2001 to a low point of 1.4 percent in 2002 with the annual pace of growth climbing thereafter. The bottom line is that however low the state's nonfarm job growth may be, modest growth is growth all the same and inconsistent with the standard definitions of recession.

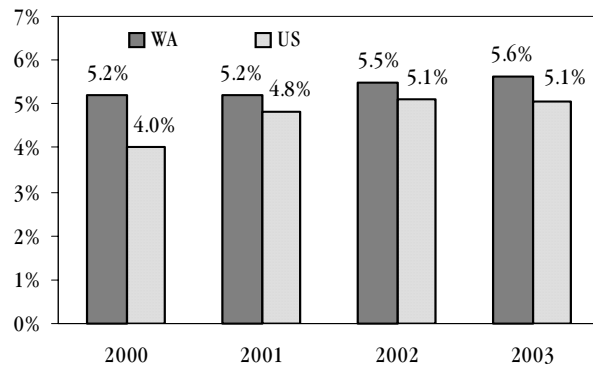
Nonfarm Employment Forecast Washington and U.S.



Source: Employment Security Department

Similarly, Washington's unemployment rate forecast reveals modest increases over the next several years, not unlike the national outlook, with both remaining relatively low (under 6 percent in Washington's case) and still indicative of relatively tight labor markets.

Unemployment Rate Forecast Washington and U.S.



Source: Office of the Forecast Council

As mentioned, though, the outlook for some of Washington's regions remains guarded. In particular, weak export markets, rising energy costs, and scarce water will hit the state's central, northwest, and southwest regions hard. Inasmuch as those regions are already battered due to weakness in resource-dependent industries, the situation could get worse before it gets better. Nevertheless, for the state as a whole, the current and short-term outlook is for no recession. The same can be said nationally as the National Bureau of Economic Research, which is unofficially charged with determining whether or not the country is in recession, has yet to make such a call.

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Washington's unemployment rate eased to 6.0 percent in March, which was four-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in February. It was, however, five-tenths of a percentage point higher than in March 2000. In seasonally adjusted terms, Washington's unemployment rate rose a tenth of a percentage point over the month and a half a percentage point over the year to 5.7 percent. The February-to-March change was more or less typical for this time of year, but the state's jobless rate has climbed a half a percentage point in each of the past two years. The seasonally adjusted national rate rose a tenth of a percentage point to 4.3 percent in March.

Over the month, March proved somewhat interesting in that few of Washington's metropolitan areas mirrored the state average, which is typically the case. The unemployment rate in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA, for example, was unchanged over the month. For its part, the Tacoma PMSA was

down only a tenth of a percentage point. The fact that the statewide jobless rate fell four-tenths of a percentage point is most attributable to a strong pickup in agricultural activity, particularly tree fruit pruning in central Washington. Apple counties, for instance, led all other counties in terms of declining unemployment rates with that in Adams County falling more than four and a half percentage points while those in Grant, Okanogan, Yakima, Chelan, Douglas, and Franklin counties fell from roughly two to two and a half percentage points. On the flip side, the state's southwest and northeast counties generally saw their unemployment rates climb or ease only slightly. Cowlitz County, for example, saw its jobless rate rise nearly two percentage points while that in Stevens County rose nearly a full percentage point. Wahkiakum County saw its jobless rate rise more than half a percentage point.

The over-the-year unemployment rate trend saw much more uniformity between Washington and the metropolitan areas that generally drive it. In March, the state's half a percentage point increase over the year was reflective of like increases in its metropolitan areas, namely the three largest—Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA, Tacoma PMSA, and Spokane MSA. Showing much more economic distress were counties with an aluminum smelting presence like Klickitat and Cowlitz with jobless rate increases of nearly four percentage points and two and a half percentage points, respectively. Clark County, with its jobless rate increase of nearly a full percentage point, might reasonably be added to that list, though it has experienced non-aluminum related events as well. Counties with forest products-based economies like Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Stevens also tended to reflect the greatest hikes in unemployment rates over the year as excess supply of and weak demand for lumber cause fallout in those areas. The most notable declines in joblessness over the year were concentrated in Washington wheat country as counties like Walla Walla, Lincoln, Adams, and Garfield saw their jobless rates fall between one-half and a full percentage point. In the case of Columbia County, whose unemployment rate fell more than a percentage point over the year, the loss of jobs was more than offset by the shrinkage in the county's labor force. That is not the way most counties would want to bring down their jobless rate, but that is precisely what happened in Columbia County.

In absolute terms, Whitman County took the top prize with the lowest unemployment rate among Washington counties in March at 2.2 percent. The state's other wheat counties—Garfield, Asotin, and Lincoln—were also all below the 6.0 percent state average. The same was true for King, Snohomish, and Island counties—which comprise the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA. On the opposite spectrum, Ferry County had the highest jobless rate in the state in March at a sobering 20.2 percent. Fifteen counties—more than a third of the state total—had jobless rates in double-digits. All were rural and had resource-dependent economies like forest products, agriculture, or aluminum.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Over the Month

From February to March, Washington gained 21,300 net new jobs. Manufacturing, though, shed 1,200 jobs with the biggest losses coming in aluminum (-700), electronic equipment (-300), and logging (-200). The one bright spot was stone, clay, and glass (+200), which was sustained by the demand for masonry and window materials in the wake of the Nisqually earthquake. The post-earthquake impact, however, showed up most prominently in construction (+6,900) with gains being atypically high in all of its sub-sectors, particularly heavy construction (+1,000). Services added 8,400 jobs, though fewer jobs were created in virtually all of its sub-sectors compared to last year and with the computer and data processing sector continuing to shed jobs (-300) for what is now the third consecutive month. Trade was up 3,500, less than half the previous year's gain. Finance, insurance, and real estate was up 300 with the finance component (+200) in particular leading the way. Transportation, communications, and utilities did not change as a 500 loss in communications and utilities offset a 500 gain in transportation.

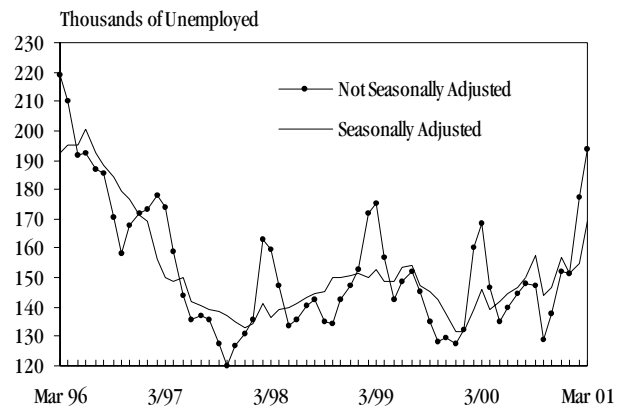
Year-Over-Year

Over the year, manufacturing was down 12,100 jobs with most of those losses in durable goods (-9,000). Specifically, transportation equipment was down 5,000 due to losses in aircraft, ships, and trucks. Lumber and wood (-1,700) and aluminum (-1,500) also contributed heavily. In terms of nondurable goods (-3,100), losses were greatest in food processing (-900), textiles and apparel (-700), printing (-600), and petroleum (-600). On the plus side, services was up 25,700 with business services accounting for the lion's share of the

Washington State Total Resident Employment and Unemployment March 1996 - March 2001



Source: *Employment Security Department*



Source: *Employment Security Department*

growth (10,300). Moreover, despite its recent pullback, the computer and data processing sector still posted a gain of 9,200 over the year. Construction increased by 8,400 while wholesale and retail trade gained 7,400. Transportation, communications, and utilities were up 4,000 while finance, insurance, and real estate was up a more modest 1,000. Government was up 5,500 with most of that coming in local education (3,900). Over the year, total nonfarm wage and salary employment adjusted in collaboration with the Office of the Forecast Council was up 50,400 or 1.9 percent.

AREA TRENDS

Washington's unemployment rate was down four-tenths of one percentage point in March in what was a typical seasonal easing. The downward trend established statewide was carried through the state's metropolitan, timber-dependent, western, and eastern regions to varying degrees. Jobless rates in the state's timber-dependent and eastern Washington regions, for example, both fell four-tenths of a percentage point as well. The jobless rate for the state's metropolitan region eased only two-tenths of a percentage point by virtue of the fact that the rates in the Puget Sound region eased only slightly, if at all (the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA was unchanged). That same phenomenon held western Washington's unemployment rate decline to only one-tenth of a percentage point.

From March 2000 to March 2001, unemployment rates in the state's metropolitan and western regions rose in concert with that statewide—five-tenths of a percentage point. The

increase was more pronounced in the state's timber-dependent region, however, as the ongoing challenges in that sector caused the region's jobless rate to climb eight-tenths of a percentage point over the year. Eastern Washington's jobless rate, on the other hand, rose only three-tenths of a percentage point.

In absolute terms, however, the jobless rate in the state's timber dependent region remained well above the 6.0 percent statewide average by four-plus percentage points. The jobless rate in eastern Washington was also comparatively high at more than three percentage points above the state average. The state's metropolitan and western regions, by contrast, were a half to nearly a full percentage point below the statewide average, respectively.

Unemployment Rates by Geographic Areas State of Washington

Areas	Mar. 2001	Feb. 2001	Mar. 2000
Washington State Total	6.0%	6.4%	5.5%
Metropolitan Areas	5.5%	5.7%	5.0%
Log & Lumber Areas	10.2%	10.6%	9.4%
All Western WA Areas	5.2%	5.3%	4.7%
All Eastern WA Areas	9.1%	10.3%	8.8%

Source: Employment Security Department

INDUSTRY NOTES

Pull the Pot Lines

According to Stephen Wright, Bonneville Power Administration's acting administrator, BPA customers could face a 250 percent rate increase after this October if the agency is forced to purchase 2,000-3,000 megawatts of the roughly 11,000 megawatts of power it requires to serve its customers from the open market. One of the many steps he proposed to eliminate the need to purchase power on the open market was for aluminum smelters currently on BPA contracts to shut down and sell their power back to BPA rather than on the open market for up to two years. In return, the BPA would compensate the smelters so they could pay their employees and restart after the rate situation stabilizes. The aluminum companies are under no obligation to go along with the proposal. To be sure, selling their BPA power on the open market has been so lucrative that most are already inactive and will remain so after October 1 when the new

BPA contracts go into effect so they can continue to sell that power on the open market. The industry will also have to consider the effect that long-term mothballing of a plant has on its ability to restart, particularly if there is no investment in plant and equipment and if experienced workers, however compensated in the interim, retire or move on.

Power Plant Proposals Power Up

In the wake of the state's energy supply situation, a number of proposals are now under review for bringing additional electricity generation on line. This has raised the profile of a heretofore little-known state agency called the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC). The EFSEC is responsible for siting, among other things, power plants that plan to generate 250 megawatts of electricity or more. The EFSEC is also authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to issue permits under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Federal Clean Air Act for facilities under its jurisdiction. The EFSEC is currently reviewing six proposals: Sumas 2 Generation Facility (660 megawatts), Starbuck Power Plant (1,200 megawatts), Wallula Generation Project (1,300 megawatts), Mercer Ranch Generation Project (850 megawatts), BP Cherry Point Cogeneration (750 megawatts), and Chehalis Generation Facility (520 megawatts). If approved, they would add more than 5,000 megawatts to the state's power supply. To put this in perspective, Seattle averages about 1,000 megawatts per day. Approval is by no means a given despite the energy supply situation since the EFSEC must balance the state's energy needs against environmental and other concerns.

While the discussion has focused primarily on megawatts, these proposed power plants have also been viewed as potential sources of jobs, particularly since all of the proposed projects are in rural Washington. In addition to the 350-600 construction jobs that would be supported over the roughly two years it would take to complete each of these projects, each project holds forth the promise of full-time permanent jobs once they are brought on line. The preliminary estimates of permanent jobs created ranges from 22 to 35 per site. With a statewide average covered wage of just over \$59,000 in 1999 for firms engaged in the generation, transmission, or distribution of electricity, those jobs, while relatively few, are well paying compared to the roughly \$35,700 statewide average covered wage.

High-Tech Fallout Spreads Out

The computer-related high-tech restructuring that has become commonplace in the greater Seattle area is apparently spreading to the smaller, more rural areas that arguably need those jobs the most. Camas-based WaferTech, a chip fabrication foundry, announced that it is laying off 270 or nearly a quarter of its nearly 1,200 workers in response to a downturn in the global semiconductor industry. Also in response to the downturn, the company has placed on hold its plans to build a second plant at its Camas site. Satsop-based SafeHarbor Technology Corporation, a provider of computer-based technical support, announced that it is laying off 40 of its 241 workers due to the loss of nearly a dozen dot.com clients in the past year.

This is not meant to diminish the losses in the broader computer-based high tech sector, which continue to fall predominantly in the Seattle area. March, for example, saw the restructuring or outright demise of the following firms: 360 Powered, Ansys Technology Corporation, Egghead.com, Driveway Corporation, InterNAP Network Services, LicenseOnline, Photoworks, iTango, Vertebrae, WildTangent, ReFlex Communications, Wholesaleportal.com, N2H2, DoubleClick Inc., Imagio/JWT, Keystroke Technology, eCash, Pro2Net, Network Commerce, ImageX.com, and Advanced Radio Telecom Corporation. These actions alone accounted for well over 1,000 lost jobs. The bleeding continued in the first half of April with Acadio, Onyx, Interlinq, Watchguard Technologies, Egghead.com (again), Chromium, and VisionCompass adding nearly 600 cuts to the total.

Microsoft Still a Hiring Force

In the midst of all the high-tech fallout is industry leader Microsoft. Much has been made of the fact that the pace of hiring at Microsoft has slowed. Less has been made of the fact that that slower pace of hiring will still translate into approximately 2,000 net new openings by the end of 2001. In fact, if one accounts for replacements, the estimate rises to 5,000 to 6,000. Not unlike the job growth statewide, it may be more modest growth, but it is growth nonetheless.

Wireless in Washington

The continuing succession of restructuring, mergers, and acquisitions in the wireless communications field is having impacts here in Washington. New York-based Verizon Wireless, the largest wireless company in the U.S. with nearly 30 million subscribers, closed its Pacific Northwest regional

headquarters in Bellevue on April 15, resulting in the loss of 200 jobs. The cost saving move was designed to improve the profitability and competitiveness of the company, which faces strong challenges from other industry leaders. The region will now be managed from the company's West Coast regional headquarters in Irvine, California. Meanwhile, Atlanta-based Cingular Wireless, the nation's number two wireless company with 20 million subscribers, recently established a foothold in the Pacific Northwest when it acquired GTE Wireless and set up its regional headquarters in Bellevue. Now, Bellevue-based VoiceStream Wireless, which provides mobile phone services, is being purchased by Bonn-based Deutsche Telekom, Europe's largest telecommunications company. In addition to giving the European giant access to the U.S. market, VoiceStream now has a well-heeled sponsor to fund its jump into the big leagues. All compete with Redmond-based AT&T Wireless which, with its nearly 16 million subscribers, is the third largest wireless telecommunications company in the U.S. That company is expected to be spun off as a separate unit by its parent corporation, AT&T.

Spokane Rocks

The greater Spokane area is about to enhance its reputation as a major center of concrete and asphalt manufacturing in the wake of two announcements. In the first announcement, Bismark, North Dakota-based Knife River Corporation will have two facilities up and running by July producing ready-mix concrete and crushed rock, and more than likely asphalt in the future. One site will be in Spokane, the other across the border in Coeur d'Alene. They will employ a total of 50 workers. In the second announcement, Spokane Rock Products Inc., concrete and crushed rock producer, will expand its facility to include a ready-mix concrete batch plant, which will require hiring additional workers. Spokane is also already home to Acme Materials & Construction Company and CPM Development Corporation, both of which produce concrete and asphalt.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

The Fed Exerts Leverage Early

In a surprise move, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) lowered the federal funds rate by half a percentage point to 4.5 percent with the Federal Reserve Board of Governors approving a 50 basis point reduction in the discount rate to 4.0 percent. The move came as a surprise because the FOMC was not scheduled to meet for another month (May 15). The FOMC last met on March 20, at which time it lowered the federal funds rate by half a percentage point to 5.0 percent. The stock market reacted disappointingly as it had expected a more aggressive cut in the neighborhood of three-quarter points. Indeed, it was the weak investment environment fueled by the continuing slew of negative corporate profit reports and continued uncertainty about the near term business outlook that caused the Fed to regard the current economic situation as unacceptably weak. This, coupled with slowing growth in overseas markets, spurred the Fed to meet earlier than expected and take action. Moreover, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan has made it clear that the governing body would not hesitate to lower short-term interest rates yet again at the May 15 meeting if the economy failed to show signs of measurable improvement.

Inflation Eases

The March report issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed inflation to be well under control as the not seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased a mere 0.1 percent in March to 176.3 and 3.0 percent for the 12-month period ended in March. This was much more welcome news than the 0.4 percent over-the-month and 3.4 percent over-the-year jumps in February. The next inflation report for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton CPI-U will be the April numbers due for release in May. Till then, interested observers are left to speculate as to whether or not inflation will maintain the torrid bi-monthly escalation of 1.4 percent seen from December-February or the 4.5 percent rise seen from February 2000 to February 2001.

Advanced Estimate Applauded

The U.S. Commerce Department reported on April 27 that the first quarter 2001 advance estimate of real GDP revealed annual growth of 2.0 percent. Though modest, the report was welcomed as a sign that the U.S. economy was holding its own rather than contracting as some feared it would. It is impor-

tant to note that this was an advance estimate. The advance estimate, which is based on data that are incomplete or subject to revision, is released near the end of the month following the end of the quarter. The preliminary and final estimates are released near the end of the second and third months, respectively, as more detailed and comprehensive data become available. The preliminary estimate for first quarter GDP will be released on May 25. Based on past history, the first-quarter change in real GDP now estimated at 2.0 percent at an annual rate, is not likely to be revised below 1.4 percent or above 2.9 percent in the next two releases. This, too, should be regarded as welcome news by economy watchers.

Labor Costs Ease

The annual rate of growth in the Employment Cost Index (ECI) held at 4.1 percent in first quarter 2001 after posting the same year-over-year increase in fourth quarter 2000. This was down from annual growth of 4.3 percent to 4.4 percent in the first three quarters of 2000. Easing was seen in both the wage/salary and benefit components of the index. Annual growth in the wage and salary index was 3.8 percent in first quarter 2001 and fourth quarter 2000, down from 4.0 percent in the first three quarters of 2000. Moreover, the benefit index has fallen progressively from 5.3 percent in second and third quarter 2000 to 4.9 percent in fourth quarter 2000 to 4.7 percent in first quarter 2001. This is the first significant easing in the ECI since labor costs, particularly the benefit component, started climbing in 1996. Slower growth in the U.S. economy is certainly the principal reason for the easing. That having been said, the annual rate of growth is still considerably higher than it was in the mid-1990s or mid-1980s, suggesting that labor markets are still relatively tight.

Consumer Price Index (All Items, Urban Consumers, 1982-84 = 100, Not Adjusted)

	Indexes			% Change From	
	Mar-01	Feb-01	Mar-00	Feb-01	Mar-00
U.S. City Average	176.3	176.2	171.2	0.1%	3.0%
Seattle *	Feb-01	Dec-00	Feb-00	Dec-00	Feb-00
	184.0	181.5	176.1	1.4%	4.5%

**The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap, Island, and Thurston counties.*

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Prepared by Gary Kamimura, Senior Economic Analyst

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work ¹

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted

	March 2001 (Prel)	February 2001 (Rev)	March 2000 (Rev)	February 2000 (Rev)	Numeric Change	
					Feb. 2001 to Mar. 2001	Mar. 2000 to Mar. 2001
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers ...	2,724.0	2,702.7	2,683.9	2,641.3	21.3	40.1
Manufacturing	339.2	340.4	351.3	335.8	-1.2	-12.1
Durable Goods	237.0	238.1	246.0 ²	230.7 ²	-1.1	-9.0
Lumber & Wood Products	31.5	31.6	33.2	33.2	-0.1	-1.7
Logging	6.5	6.7	6.9	7.2	-0.2	-0.4
Sawmills & Plywood	21.8	21.8	22.7	22.6	0.0	-0.9
Furniture & Fixtures	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.1	0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass	8.9	8.7	9.0	8.8	0.2	-0.1
Primary Metals	9.6	10.3	11.3	11.3	-0.7	-1.7
Aluminum	5.6	6.3	7.1 ²	7.1 ²	-0.7	-1.5
Fabricated Metals	14.9	15.0	14.8	14.6	-0.1	0.1
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	25.3	25.4	25.4	25.4	-0.1	-0.1
Computer & Office Equipment	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	0.0	0.0
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	19.7	20.0	19.4	19.2	-0.3	0.3
Transportation Equipment	99.7	99.8	104.7	90.0 ²	-0.1	-5.0
Aircraft & Parts	85.9	85.8	88.5	74.2	0.1	-2.6
Ship & Boat Building	6.9	7.1	7.8	7.4	-0.2	-0.9
Instruments & Related	14.1	14.1	14.5	14.5	0.0	-0.4
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	8.4	8.4	8.9	8.9	0.0	-0.5
Nondurable Goods	102.2	102.3	105.3	105.1	-0.1	-3.1
Food & Kindred Products	37.6	37.5	38.5	38.3	0.1	-0.9
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	11.2	11.3	11.5	11.5	-0.1	-0.3
Textiles, Apparel & Leather	7.5	7.5	8.2	8.1	0.0	-0.7
Paper & Allied Products	15.1	15.2	15.5	15.6	-0.1	-0.4
Printing & Publishing	23.8	23.9	24.4	24.3	-0.1	-0.6
Chemicals & Allied Products	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	0.0	0.1
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	11.9	11.9	12.5	12.5	0.0	-0.6
Mining & Quarrying	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	0.1	0.2
Construction	161.7	154.8	153.3	149.4	6.9	8.4
General Building Contractors	45.0	43.4	42.4	41.7	1.6	2.6
Heavy Construction, except Building	17.1	16.1	16.5	16.3	1.0	0.6
Special Trade Contractors	99.6	95.3	94.4	91.4	4.3	5.2
Transportation, Communications & Utilities ...	147.2	147.2	143.2	141.5	0.0	4.0
Transportation	95.2	94.7	92.0	91.1	0.5	3.2
Trucking & Warehousing	33.7	33.5	32.8	32.3	0.2	0.9
Water Transportation	9.1	9.0	8.7	8.5	0.1	0.4
Transportation by Air	27.6	27.5	26.6	26.6	0.1	1.0
Communications	35.9	36.1	35.0	34.3	-0.2	0.9
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	16.1	16.4	16.2	16.1	-0.3	-0.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	645.5	642.0	638.1	630.4	3.5	7.4
Wholesale Trade	154.6	154.4	153.4	151.5	0.2	1.2
Durable Goods	89.3	89.4	88.9	87.9	-0.1	0.4
Nondurable Goods	65.3	65.0	64.5	63.6	0.3	0.8
Retail Trade	490.9	487.6	484.7	478.9	3.3	6.2
Building Materials/Garden Supplies	21.9	21.2	22.5	21.5	0.7	-0.6
General Merchandise	48.3	48.3	48.8	48.6	0.0	-0.5
Food Stores	70.2	70.2	69.9	69.9	0.0	0.3
Automobile Dealers & Service Stations	50.9	50.2	50.7	49.9	0.7	0.2
Apparel & Accessory Stores	24.1	24.2	24.4	24.6	-0.1	-0.3
Eating & Drinking Establishments	185.1	182.8	179.0	175.2	2.3	6.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	137.9	137.6	136.9	137.0	0.3	1.0
Finance	62.1	61.9	61.1	61.6	0.2	1.0
Insurance	40.8	40.7	40.8	40.7	0.1	0.0
Real Estate	35.0	35.0	35.0	34.7	0.0	0.0
Services	793.8	785.4	768.1	756.5	8.4	25.7
Hotels & Lodging	28.4	27.6	26.8	25.9	0.8	1.6
Personal Services	23.8	23.7	23.8	23.8	0.1	0.0
Business Services	190.4	189.3	180.1	176.6	1.1	10.3
Computer & Data Processing Services	73.3	73.6	64.1	62.4	-0.3	9.2
Amusement & Recreational Services	45.2	43.7	43.5	42.1	1.5	1.7
Health Services	192.3	191.6	191.2	189.8	0.7	1.1
Nursing & Personal Care	31.8	31.8	32.1	32.0	0.0	-0.3
Hospitals	59.8	59.4	59.6	59.0	0.4	0.2
Legal Services	20.4	20.4	19.6	19.6	0.0	0.8
Educational Services	41.0	40.6	40.4	39.8	0.4	0.6
Social Services	66.0	65.1	63.1	62.2	0.9	2.9
Engineering & Management Services	74.2	73.7	69.5	68.8	0.5	4.7
Government	495.1	491.8	489.6	487.2	3.3	5.5
Federal	66.4	66.4	67.1	66.9	0.0	-0.7
State	148.5	146.7	146.3	144.4	1.8	2.2
State Education	82.7	81.3	81.6	79.9	1.4	1.1
Local	280.2	278.7	276.2	275.9	1.5	4.0
Local Education	155.2	154.4	151.3	150.2	0.8	3.9
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	2.2	17.2	0.0	-2.2

¹Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, & private household employees. Includes all full- & part-time wage & salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month. ²Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management dispute. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas 1/

Date: 4/17/01
Benchmark: 2000

Not Seasonally Adjusted	March 2001 Preliminary				February 2001 Revised				March 2000 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ- ment	Unemploy- ment	Unemploy- ment Rate
Washington State Total	3,092,200	2,905,500	186,700	6.0	3,089,200	2,892,700	196,500	6.4	3,019,100	2,852,000	167,100	5.5
Bellingham MSA	81,800	76,400	5,400	6.6	82,600	76,700	5,800	7.1	81,900	76,800	5,000	6.2
Bremerton PMSA	93,600	88,200	5,400	5.8	94,100	88,400	5,700	6.1	93,900	88,400	5,500	5.8
Olympia PMSA	100,800	95,100	5,600	5.6	100,600	94,700	5,900	5.9	100,400	95,200	5,300	5.2
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett PMSA . .	1,433,100	1,371,000	62,100	4.3	1,432,400	1,370,200	62,200	4.3	1,390,000	1,337,000	53,000	3.8
King County 2/	1,050,400	1,005,900	44,500	4.2	1,049,800	1,005,400	44,400	4.2	1,017,000	981,000	36,000	3.5
Snohomish County 2/	352,700	336,200	16,500	4.7	352,600	336,000	16,600	4.7	343,400	327,900	15,600	4.5
Island County 2/	30,000	28,900	1,200	3.9	30,100	28,800	1,300	4.2	29,500	28,100	1,400	4.7
Spokane MSA	212,900	198,100	14,800	6.9	213,800	197,800	16,000	7.5	207,800	194,800	13,000	6.3
Tacoma PMSA	336,700	316,600	20,200	6.0	336,100	315,500	20,600	6.1	332,600	314,700	17,900	5.4
Tri-Cities MSA	94,000	87,100	6,900	7.3	94,300	86,200	8,000	8.5	89,500	82,700	6,800	7.6
Benton County 2/	71,300	66,700	4,500	6.3	71,300	66,100	5,200	7.3	68,000	63,400	4,600	6.7
Franklin County 2/	22,700	20,400	2,400	10.5	23,000	20,200	2,900	12.5	21,600	19,300	2,300	10.5
Yakima MSA	108,000	94,000	14,100	13.0	107,000	90,900	16,100	15.0	104,300	91,100	13,200	12.7
Adams	7,840	6,840	1,000	12.7	7,690	6,360	1,330	17.3	7,570	6,570	1,000	13.3
Asotin 2/	11,680	11,020	670	5.7	12,000	11,220	780	6.5	11,940	11,360	580	4.9
Chelan-Douglas LMA	51,490	46,640	4,850	9.4	50,850	45,200	5,650	11.1	50,400	45,680	4,720	9.4
Chelan County 2/	33,170	29,740	3,420	10.3	32,740	28,820	3,920	12.0	32,380	29,130	3,250	10.0
Douglas County 2/	18,320	16,900	1,420	7.8	18,120	16,380	1,740	9.6	18,020	16,550	1,470	8.1
Clallam	24,270	22,210	2,060	8.5	24,410	22,140	2,270	9.3	23,580	21,570	2,010	8.5
Clark 2/	183,600	174,500	9,100	5.0	182,800	173,000	9,800	5.4	175,600	168,400	7,200	4.1
Columbia	1,250	1,060	190	15.2	1,270	1,060	210	16.6	1,300	1,090	220	16.5
Cowlitz	41,600	37,210	4,390	10.6	41,330	37,650	3,680	8.9	41,160	37,830	3,330	8.1
Ferry	2,680	2,130	540	20.2	2,690	2,140	540	20.2	2,630	2,120	520	19.7
Garfield	1,240	1,190	60	4.6	1,230	1,150	80	6.1	1,100	1,050	60	5.0
Grant	35,380	30,860	4,520	12.8	34,790	29,500	5,290	15.2	35,830	31,410	4,420	12.3
Grays Harbor	26,540	23,570	2,970	11.2	26,510	23,440	3,070	11.6	25,190	22,780	2,410	9.6
Jefferson	9,990	9,380	610	6.1	10,090	9,380	710	7.0	10,060	9,400	660	6.5
Kittitas	16,060	14,850	1,210	7.6	15,700	14,350	1,350	8.6	15,220	14,050	1,160	7.6
Klickitat	8,320	6,770	1,550	18.6	8,910	7,230	1,680	18.8	8,260	7,030	1,230	14.9
Lewis	29,140	26,100	3,040	10.4	28,740	25,740	3,000	10.4	29,880	27,100	2,790	9.3
Lincoln	4,580	4,310	270	5.8	4,580	4,300	280	6.2	4,400	4,120	290	6.5
Mason	18,730	17,190	1,540	8.2	18,790	17,120	1,660	8.9	18,730	17,360	1,370	7.3
Okanogan	19,410	16,650	2,760	14.2	19,400	16,270	3,130	16.2	19,350	16,690	2,650	13.7
Pacific	7,670	6,920	740	9.7	7,460	6,740	720	9.6	7,570	6,890	680	9.0
Pend Oreille	4,400	3,840	570	12.9	4,460	3,870	590	13.2	4,100	3,560	550	13.3
San Juan	5,400	5,110	300	5.5	5,380	5,010	360	6.8	5,550	5,260	290	5.3
Skagit	50,660	46,760	3,900	7.7	50,350	46,050	4,300	8.5	51,070	47,150	3,920	7.7
Skamania	3,860	3,420	440	11.4	3,810	3,350	460	12.1	4,050	3,600	450	11.1
Stevens	17,140	14,800	2,330	13.6	16,890	14,730	2,150	12.7	16,860	14,680	2,180	12.9
Wahkiakum	1,840	1,710	140	7.4	1,830	1,710	130	6.8	1,810	1,680	130	7.0
Walla Walla	25,850	23,860	1,990	7.7	25,650	23,420	2,240	8.7	25,750	23,580	2,170	8.4
Whitman	20,710	20,260	450	2.2	20,620	20,050	560	2.7	19,790	19,320	460	2.3

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

2/ Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.

Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State

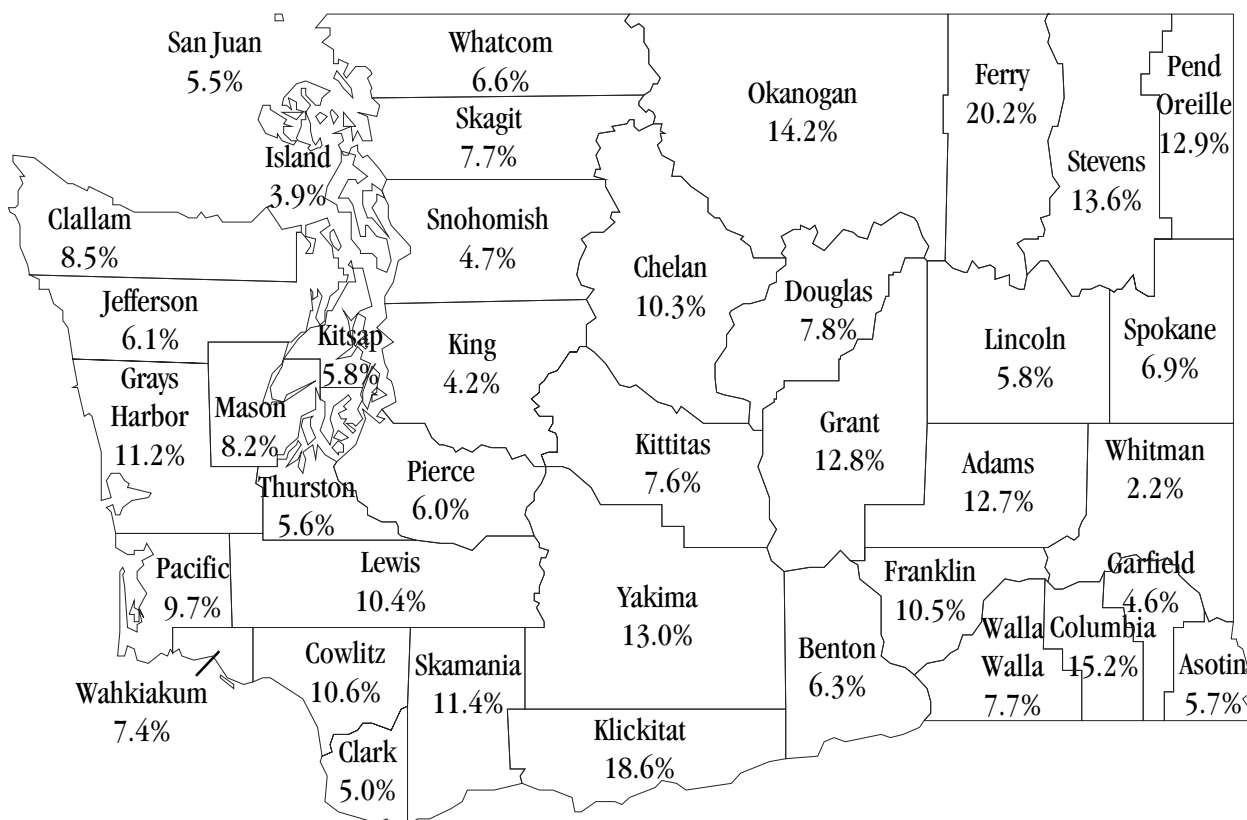
<i>(In Thousands)</i>	March 2001 (Prel)	February 2001 (Rev)	March 2000 (Rev)	February 2000 (Rev)
<i>Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment:</i>				
Washington State	5.7%	5.6%	5.2%	5.2%
United States	4.3%	4.2%	4.0%	4.1%
<i>Not Seasonally Adjusted:</i>				
Resident Civilian Labor Force	3,092.2	3,089.2	3,019.1	3,028.7
Employment	2,905.5	2,892.7	2,852.0	2,845.8
Unemployment	186.7	196.5	167.1	182.9
Percent of Labor Force	6.0%	6.4%	5.5%	6.0%

Unemployment Rates by County, March 2001

Washington State = 6.0%

United States = 4.6%

Not Seasonally Adjusted



Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, Washington State

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00	Mar 01	Feb 01	Mar 00
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	\$700.80	\$685.72	\$674.81	40.0	39.5	40.7	\$17.52	\$17.36	\$16.58
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES									
Lumber and Wood Products	\$593.22	\$604.25	\$613.32	40.3	40.8	42.8	\$14.72	\$14.81	\$14.33
Primary Metal Industries	\$701.38	\$726.83	\$721.81	41.6	41.7	43.3	\$16.86	\$17.43	\$16.67
Transportation Equipment	\$1,015.75	\$949.93	\$894.82	42.2	40.2	40.6	\$24.07	\$23.63	\$22.04
Food and Kindred Products	\$521.49	\$524.69	\$510.47	39.9	39.9	40.1	\$13.07	\$13.15	\$12.73
Chemicals and Allied Products	\$923.52	\$1,018.50	\$991.25	41.1	42.0	42.8	\$22.47	\$24.25	\$23.16
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES									
Construction	\$868.27	\$819.96	\$838.03	37.8	35.9	37.8	\$22.97	\$22.84	\$22.17
Wholesale and Retail Trade	\$388.73	\$388.13	\$379.08	31.4	31.1	31.2	\$12.38	\$12.48	\$12.15
(Includes eating and drinking establishments)									



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